

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-5, 10-11, 14-25, and 28-38 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 10, 14, 17, 20, 23, 28, 32, 33, and 36 being the independent claims. Claims 6-9, 12-13, and 26-27 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Cancellation of Non-Elected Claims

In response to the Examiner's requirement that non-elected claims 6-9, 12-13, and 26-27 be canceled based on the previous Election Requirement, Applicants hereby cancel claims 6-9, 12-13, and 26-27. The cancellation of these claims is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicants reserve the right to file these claims in a divisional application.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the

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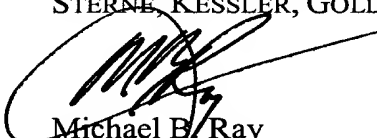
Kissell *et al.*
Appl. No. 09/882,285

Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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